



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

United States Patent Application

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To: Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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Application Number 09/830399
Filing Date 25-Apr-2001
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Attorney's Docket Number U2726US
Title "A MOLECULAR DECOMPOSITION
PROCESS FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF
NANOSIZE CERAMIC POWDERS"

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8
I hereby certify that this document, along with attachments referred to or identified as being enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on 05 September 2001 in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231. Name of Registered Representative: James L. Sonntag, Reg. 30224

James L. Sonntag

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This is a preliminary amendment responding to issues raised in the International Preliminary Examiner Report (IPER) completed on 21 November 2000 in PCT application PCT/US99/24052, which is claimed for priority in the present application. Claims 1-25 are pending in the application before this amendment. In the IPER, Claims 2-20, 23 to 25 were stated as having novelty, and inventive step. Claims 1, 21, and 22 were stated as not having novelty or inventive step.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as indicated below:

In the Claims

Please substitute the below amended claims, for pending claims. A marked up version of the pending claims showing all changes made is attached.